

Message Text

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ACTION SP-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-06

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R 191821Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6977

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 01730

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR-US

SUBJECT: US-FRENCH PLANNING TALKS

REF: PARIS 1373

1. THIS CABLE REPORTS ON STATUS, ROLE, SIZE AND CURRENT MAJOR INTERESTS OF QUAI PLANNING STAFF (CAP). MOST OBSERVERS AGREE THAT FREE WHEELING DAYS ENJOYED BY CAP UNDER JOBERT ARE OVER AND THE SCLEROSIS THAT COMES WITH BEING FORMALLY ABSORBED BY THE BUREAUCRACY HAS STARTED TO SET IN. TO ITS DISCOMFORT--AND TO THE DELIGHT OF THE REGULAR QUAI STAFFERS--THE CAP NOW WORKS MORE WITH THE LINE OFFICES OF THE QUAI, AND LESS IN THE SALONS OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER. IN PART, THIS IS DUE TO SAUVAGNARGUES' PREFERENCE FOR WORKING WITHIN THE SYSTEM. HE IS, AFTER ALL, A PRODUCT OF THAT SYSTEM. BUT IT ALSO REFLECTS A SHIFT AWAY FROM THE QUAI TO THE ELYSEE OF THE "IMAGINATIVE" AND "CREATIVE" FORCE THAT WAS THE HALLMARK OF THE CAP UNDER JOBERT. THERE IS SOME EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST THAT CAP HEAD DE MONTBRIAL PRESERVES A GOOD DEAL OF PERSONAL CLOUT WITH THE ELYSEE STAFF, BUT THIS PRESTIGE DOES NOT RUB OFF ON THE CAP AS AN INSTITUTION. RECENTLY, THE CAP HAS PLAYED ITS MOST IMPORTANT ROLES IN CONNECTION

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WITH THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE AND THE RAMBOUILLET

SUMMIT. HERE AGAIN WE SUSPECT THAT IT WAS DE MONTBRIAL THAT ACCOUNTED FOR THIS, NOT THE CAP ITSELF. WE SEE LITTLE EVIDENCE THAT THEY HAVE A SERIOUS IMPACT IN OTHER SUBSTANTIVE AREAS.

2. AS ITS INDEPENDENT ROLE HAS DIMINISHED, THE CAP HAS GROWN IN SIZE. IN ADDITION TO DE MONTBRIAL (WHO FOCUSES MAINLY ON NORTH-SOUTH, RAMBOUILLET FOLLOW-UP, ENERGY AND EUROPEAN CONSTRUCTION ISSUES), GERGORIN (WHOSE MAIN INTERESTS ARE POLITICAL/MILITARY AND ENERGY) AND MOREL (WHO FOLLOWS POLITICAL/MILITARY, EAST AND WEST EUROPE) -- EACH OF WHOM WAS DESCRIBED IN MORE DETAIL IN PARIS A-173 OF MARCH 20, 1974 -- THE CAP NOW HAS THREE OTHER STAFFERS:

-- FRANCOIS DOPFFER, 34, IS A CAREER DIPLOMAT WHO HAS SERVED IN BUCHAREST AND TOKYO AND IN THE QUAI'S OFFICE OF NUCLEAR AFFAIRS. HE HANDLES ECONOMIC, NORTH-SOUTH AND ASIAN AFFAIRS AT CAP.

-- JEAN-FRANCOIS LIONNET, 35, A CAREER DIPLOMAT WITH PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE IN GUATEMALA AND LONDON, IS THE CAP'S ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER. HE ALSO FOLLOWS IBERIAN, LATIN AMERICAN, BRITISH AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS.

-- JEAN PONTON D'AMECOURT, 30, ALSO A DIPLOMAT, HAS SERVED AT THE QUAI IN ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS. HE FOLLOWS EUROPEAN, ECONOMIC AND NEAR EAST SUBJECTS.

3. ACCORDING TO CAP STAFFERS, THEIR MAJOR INTERESTS ARE DETENTE (IN AND OUT OF EUROPE), POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHERN EUROPE, A HOST OF POLITICAL/MILITARY ISSUES (DETERRENCE, MBFR, TACTICAL NUCLEAR DOCTRINE, STANDARDIZATION, COOPERATIVE ARMAMENT PRODUCTION), AND OF COURSE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE AND ENERGY MATTERS IN GENERAL.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PLANNING MEETINGS, MEETING DELEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PARIS01730
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760020-0188
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760144/aaaabmyq.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SP
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 PARIS 1373
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <13 AUG 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-FRENCH PLANNING TALKS
TAGS: PFOR, FR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006